

DEC 6 1960

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There Is a Lot of Chatter Between Mc Murdo and US

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North American Newspaper
Alliance

McMurdo Sound, Antarctica

— There are three jobs open "stateside" for dedicated men or women who relish hard work, outrageous hours, no pay and even possible out of pocket expense—but who will make some lonely man extremely happy if they sign on.

The job openings are for ham radio operators with well equipped radio shacks located in the Denver-Salt Lake area,

the gulf coast around Pensacola-Mobile, and in or around Kansas City.

If three such people would sign on to work ham traffic regularly with KC4USV, McMurdo's amateur radio station, virtually every American on the antarctic continent could call home at frequent intervals for about 75c.

The secret of being able to call across more than 10,000 miles for less than a dollar lies in the average ham's instinct to be a nice guy while enjoying his hobby. The ham, licensed by the federal communications commission, is forbidden to charge any fee for his services in amateur radio.

The charge comes in when stateside hams "patch in" to the telephone company's circuits to complete a call from the ice. The phone company charges its normal rates for handling the call from the point of reception in the states to the home phone number being called.

Company Permits It

The phone company probably would have the law on its side if it ever wanted to stop this. Try averting tolls from San Francisco to New York and you and the ham that helps you have had it. But the Bell system apparently figures it is doing a service for isolated men under circumstances that couldn't possibly cost the phone company a nickel. There are no commercial circuits from Antarctica to the United States.

Over a period of years, KC4USV has worked up deals with stateside hams to handle phone-patch traffic on a regularly scheduled basis. It is common to hear the talker say, over the McMurdo squawkbox, "Now

hear this: The phone-patch is in to Davisville, Rhode Island," or "San Diego, California," or "Washington, D. C." This is a general invitation to the men of McMurdo to make phone calls home.

Chief Petty Officer John Cunningham of Bell, Calif., and Radioman 1/C Edward Ray of Providence, R. I., are big wheels in the ham shack here. They are the ones who want to get regular arrangements going in Denver, Pensacola and Kansas City.

4-11 p.m. Is Best

About 16 stateside hams have regular working hours with KC4USV, during which the antarctic station gives them priority over other hams who would like to work McMurdo. "Prime time," as Chief Cunningham expresses it, is between 4 p.m. and 11 p.m., Monday through Friday, antarctic time.

This time block is anything but prime time for the stateside hams. McMurdo time is 16 hours ahead of eastern standard, and 19 hours ahead of Pacific. When prime time begins at 4 p.m. Monday in McMurdo, it is just changing from Saturday to Sunday in Washington.

The hams do it, though, and stick with it so assiduously that there are now only five prime time hours in KC4USV's phone-patch schedule that have not been spoken for. They are at 9 p.m. Monday, 5 p.m. Tuesday, 7 and 9 p.m. Wednesday and 6 p.m. Friday, McMurdo time. A special prime time hour at 3 p.m. Friday makes a total of 31 filled, five empty.

The big three among stateside phone patchers for McMurdo

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Platteville Man Is Among Antarctic Hams

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are Paul King, K1NAP, of Davisville, R. I.; Kiser Cranford, W3FII, of Coral Hills, Md., and Julius Madey, K2KGJ, Clark, N. J. Each has a different reason.

"Paul"—hams are known by a "handle," usually a first name—devotes six hours a week to hamming because so many of McMurdo's men live at Quonset Point naval air station near Davisville. "Kiser" works five hours a week because his near neighbor and good friend, Robert (Bob) Thurman likes to work with Kiser every night. "Jules" is given four hours a week, and would take the whole 36 if allowed, because he is wild about amateur radio.

Made 12,000 'Patches'

Jules, who claims to have worked more ham traffic with McMurdo than anyone else, and to have made some 12,000 phone patches, is well thought of by many at the antarctic station, but is a thorn in the side of others, chiefly other hams. Some of the men in KC4USV's shack say Jules tries to monopolize antarctic traffic to the detriment of hamming generally, and have threatened to take measures against the 20 year old Rutgers student, even to the extent of boycotting him.

Some of the McMurdo hams who say Jules is a pain in the neck charge it up to youthful exuberance. All concede his

ability and indefatigability, and agree that he deserved a special trip to the antarctic offered him last year by the antarctic commander, Rear Admiral David M. Tyree of Washington, D. C.

Many Get Credit

Jules, for all his insistence on being top man in antarctic hamming, is always around when the chips are down. When this writer was experiencing trouble reaching Kiser at W3FII a few nights ago, Jules was standing by to patch in and handle the call over land lines from New Jersey to Washington if necessary. And even Jules' enemies here say he has paid for plenty of phone patches out of his own funds.

But Jules is not the only one, they point out. All over the country are men and women who provide the antarctic force with its only direct contact with home. Chief Cunningham and his crew singled out these people for special commendation:

Paul Blum, W2KCR, of Syracuse, N. Y., who doesn't work regularly because he "about killed himself handling patches over a three and one-half year period."

Weston C. Jones, W8GDB, of Toledo, Ohio, who has the 6 to 7 p.m. Monday slot in the phone patch schedule.

Dr. Paul Z. Haus, W2VH, of

Chappaqua, N. Y., on from 7 to 8 p.m. Monday.

Harold A. Sears, K5JIQ, of Houston, Tex., 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Mrs. Betty Gillis, W6QPI, of East San Diego, Calif., 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday.

William J. Peters, K6MZT, of Pasadena, whose ham shack is known to McMurdo men as "the menagerie: Monkeys, zebras and tigers" from its call letters. He works 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday.

A time slot at 9 p.m. Tuesday exists for K4NAA, the old NAA radio station in Arlington, Va., but Chief Cunningham says the stateside station has "reserved but not contacted."

List One State Man

Clyde Beeler, W4FUI, of Asheville, N. C., 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday.

James P. Ayers, W9LRH, of Frankfort, Ind., 5 to 6 p.m. Wednesday.

A ham known only by his handle of "Jack" with call letters W4CHM, apparently a mobile transmitter, presently located at Carmel, Calif., 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Paul Schmidt, K9UNG, Platteville, Wis., 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday.

A ham named "Don" at W9RRL, Chicago, 3 to 4 p.m. Friday.

Coleman B. Roland,

W4TWW, of Charleston, S. C., 4 to 5 p.m. Friday.

Dr. Charles L. Clarke, K4ZQL, and another doctor with the handle of "Ed," W4LHD, both of Memphis, who share the 5 to 6 p.m. Friday slot.

Mrs. Alice G. Ginsburg, K4TGA, of Norfolk, 7 to 8 p.m. Friday.

A ham named "Roy," K7KRE, Portland, Ore.

Citizens in the states can initiate calls to Antarctica through hams near their homes. Not all hams can work the icy continent half a world away, and not all have phone patch equipment. Nor does busy KC4USV—"King Charlie four, Uncle Sam's the victim"—necessarily respond to every stray call from up north.